



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Baltimore District

Public Affairs Office

P.O. Box 1715

Baltimore, MD 21203

(410) 962-2809

Fax: (410) 962-3660

News Release

Release No. 01-09

Contact: Doug Garman

For Release: March 22, 2001

Phone: (410) 962-2809

Corps of Engineers begins Brewerton Channel construction

Baltimore – Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today that annual maintenance dredging for the Baltimore Harbor and Channels project has been completed, and that construction has begun on the project to widen the Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension.

The Brewerton Channel project is the first of three navigational improvement projects planned this year in the Chesapeake Bay. This project involves widening the western five miles of the channel from 450 feet to the authorized width of 600 feet for the purpose of providing safer and more efficient movement of vessels calling the Port of Baltimore. Later this year, Corps officials plan to begin construction on two other navigation improvement projects, the Tolchester Channel S-Turn Straightening and the Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels.

In August 2000, the Corps of Engineers awarded an \$18.4 million contract to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company of Oakbrook, Ill., for the Brewerton dredging. The dredged material will be placed at the Poplar Island restoration project. Currently, the contractor is mobilizing equipment and materials to the Poplar Island site in Talbot County, Md. Corps officials estimate that approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of dredged material will be placed at the site. This will be the first inflow of dredged material to this beneficial use placement site. Ultimately, the Poplar Island site will be developed into 1,140 acres of wetland and upland habitat.

The Brewerton, Anchorages and Tolchester projects have been reviewed, authorized and funded by Congress after undergoing a complete and thorough analysis of potential environmental impacts, economic justification, safety concerns and design optimization. The analyses for these projects were performed according to Corps policy and used state-of-the-art modeling tools. As part of the economic analyses for the Brewerton and Anchorages projects, simulation models were developed and peer reviewed by independent experts in the field of systems and operations research in order to evaluate effectively the Port's complex and dynamic navigation system.

The Brewerton, Tolchester and Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels remain key links in the Port of Baltimore's water transport system. Construction of these projects will benefit the entire Port community, including the large cargo shippers of Wallenius Wilhelmsen and Mediterranean Shipping Company who recently signed agreements with the

Maryland Port Administration. As a vital part of our national and regional economy, the Port of Baltimore generates nearly \$1.3 billion in economic benefits. More than 126,000 jobs across the state are related in some way to the movement of cargo across the port's piers.

- 30 -

Web Page <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>